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Kyell Gold

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Volle Details

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Author : Kyell Gold

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From Reader Review Volle for online ebook

Eepa *mm loving bookworm* says

For a book where not much anything happens before the last third or so, this was great read! The world was interesting and finely detailed as was the palace and Volle's life there. I do think Volle may be the world's worst spy but he is quite good a noble. =P

Mr. Gold is also very good at using the animal facets of the characters to bring something extra to the story. I wasn't quite sure about furries when I read the first book by him but I do see the appeal now. So many new possibilities and so many delightful details to explore and exploit.

El-jorro says

Bookworm Speaks!

Volle

by Kyell Gold

Acquired: Amazon Kindle

Series: Argaea Series

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WARNING!!! This review may contain spoilers!

The Story: Volle is the first published novel by Kyell Gold--a stirring tale of romance, espionage, and the intrigues common to both. Follow the adventures of a young gay fox trying to be a spy in a foreign palace, where enemies and temptations abound. Received the Ursula Major Award for Best Anthropomorphic Novel of 2005. Warning: contains sexually explicit scenes. Not for sale to underage readers.

The Review: After reading and really enjoying Waterways by Kyell Gold, Bookworm was eager to explore more of the worlds he had built. One of his most famous works, the one that put him in the limelight as it were was the eponymous Volle (rhymes with 'wall') series.

A spy adventure in a foreign land starring a cast of furry characters, several of them happen to be gay? A few years ago, that last part may not have tickled Bookworm's fancy, but again, Waterways worked so why not this one?

So Bookworm purchased the e-book, loaded up on his Kindle App and began to read.

He did not like it.

Why?

It can be summed up in a single word:

BORING

The book is incredibly dull.

The main character, Volle, is a red fox, who is supposedly a spy, does very little in the way of spying. He just seems to walk around, talk to people (animals), get laid (a lot), and make connections.

Yawn.

In his defense, that is what spying really is, not at all like what James Bond makes it to be. It really is an anticlimactic process of schmoozing with the movers and shakers of a particular locale and trying to see if they are planning anything untoward the spie's homeland. Spying really more passive than reactive.

Then again, Bookworm is not here for 'reality.' He cannot speak for all readers, but he reads, plays, and watches things to escape the humdrum nature of day to day life. If he wanted to read about the real life nature of a subject i.e. spying, he would have gone to the non-fiction section.

What makes it ultimately fail in the end is the overall lack of conflict for the majority of the book. The mission Volle is sent on is extremely vague and honestly if the reader is not careful, they will spend the majority of the book wondering what his mission even is.

Things go a little too easily for him during the first two thirds of the entire book. The only real challenge he seems to face is having to perform a sexual favor for a fat, greasy, clerk. Otherwise, it just seems that he just...hangs out.

Even the sex isn't done well. If anything it may make the volume worse. Waterways got hot in a few places but it fit in with the overall them of a young man coming-to-terms with his newfound sexuality. The sex in this one is not only repetitive, it just seems...hollow.

Bookworm wouldn't be surprised if Volle turned out to have a sexual addiction of some kind. Bookworm wonders if nymphomania can apply to men, both straight, gay, etc. Volle goes to the brothel seemingly just to get his fix. This cheapens the quality of the sexual scenes and ultimately leads them to becoming distasteful. The author couldn't even be bothered to put Volle with a different boy-whore every night. It would have at least spiced things up a bit.

When reading further, a reasonable hypothesis comes to light in that Volle suffers not so much from sex addiction as problems with relationships. Several scenes attempt to explore this, but after having to stew through gay erotica and palace banter, it is also a reasonable hypothesis that the reader will put the book down before reaching the deeper parts.

Also, perhaps this is to be expected, but there seems to be a disproportionate amount of homosexuals in Volle's adopted home. They seem to be everywhere. There's nothing wrong with that mind you, it just doesn't feel realistic. Homosexuals tend to be in the minority in most places.

On another note, they are homosexual males up the yin yang but is there any mention of lesbians? None

whatsoever.

The story does not really pick up until the last third when Volle meets and begins a relationship with a leopard named Xiller. After waffling back and forth on this book for a while, when Bookworm finally got to this point he became more interested in finishing the book. Volle's more sensitive side finally made an appearance and many of his bargains and exploits in his adopted home land come to a head.

In the end it was just a little too late. The appeal of the final third is ultimately nixed by an ending that feels very rushed.

Final Verdict: Volle was a disappointment. Too much sex and not enough story.

Two Foxes out of Five

thecultureworm.blogspot.com

Andrew says

Better than expected. A sound title with distinct appeal within the intended audience. While this is not my normal reading material, I would consider revisiting is author's works. The prose is hardly elegant, and there is an assortment of Americanisms to irk some readers. On the whole it is a slow moving story, but doesn't fail to hold the reader's interest the whole way through. I am not sorry I took the time to read this.

Rechan says

I stopped reading this book after three separate attempts to finish it.

The premise is that Volle is a spy posing as a noble in another country's court. While he is quite gay and has lots of trysts, he's expected to produce an heir, and is pressured into marrying a girl. This causes friction because he after all is a fake, and is going to leave this girl destitute. This is the point where I finally stopped, because the above summary took 200 pages to play out.

The life as a noble is dry, with boring committee meetings, lunches with various nobles, and that's it. Volle is a spy yet there's very little actual clandestine activity - it is more like planting a mole in a drab bureaucracy than anything thrilling. This plot barely materializes, as most of Volle's time is spent between having sex, courting another gay fox, courting girls for a loveless marriage, and the unimportant details of noble daily life. Quite frankly nothing happens - there's no drama, no tension, and reads more like a diary of the minutia of noble life than anything.

So there's no pace and a struggling plot, what about characters? No. Aside from Volle's trepidation about marrying a girl as part of his cover identity, and his unhappiness about having to have sex with a girl, he's rather shallow.

Yes, this is Kyell Gold's first book, and thus certain allowances are provided for issues. Clearly he has

managed to write better books, so my recommendation is to skip this one and find those.

Ryan Blackbear says

This book could have been quite good. Unfortunately, the pacing was quite disjointed. Some things, like a certain romance, happened far too quickly and left me unable to make a connection with the characters and truly feel for them. Others dragged out far longer than necessary and left entire periods where nothing of consequence was happening. The prose is thin but passable; you don't come to read for the prose, but you don't leave because of the prose, either. The world of Argaea is certainly an interesting one, however, and I enjoyed the many anthropomorphic touches the author added.

Zakary French says

This book is absolutely amazing and awesome. :3 This was the first furry novel I read, and I must say Kyell masterfully balances the romance and intrigue/tension while adding tragedy and dark chapters at the perfect times. I seriously could not stop reading this book once I started and had been through a roller coaster of emotions by the end - I'm definitely looking forward to reading more from the Argaea series in the future! :3

Elisa Rolle says

This is the second anthropomorphic book I read by the same author, but they are very different. Waterways was almost a young adult novel, and reading about the problem of a young otter who was shunned by his home when he discovers he is gay was in a way more "strange" than reading the adventures of a young fox spy in a medieval fantasy setting. Probably since in a fantasy setting it's less strange to read about animals who behave like humans and also it is more difficult to identify yourself when the setting is so different from your real world.

Anyway I remember that, when I approached this author, people warned me that Volle was somewhat a more difficult reading since it was a lot more erotic than Waterways. Here the main character, the spy fox Volle, is a young fox with a penchant for wolves and big cats, rigorously all males. And he has no problem to pick up any possible lover he finds around, and he has no problem to play the role of the top or the bottom, depending on the occasion... well after all he is a spy and a spy should be always ready for the action, shouldn't he?

Volle is just out of the spy school in a fictional kingdom; his prince, a cougar (one of Volle's crush) sends him in disguise in another kingdom: Volle has to play the role of the lost son of one of the court nobleman, and so he has the chance to live at court. Between a ball and a meeting, Volle has to handle a possible male fox noble lover, a wanna-to-be female fox fiancee, the unwanted attention of two male noblemen (a squirrel and a rat) who attempt to his "virtue", the affair with a sweet male wolf prostitute and the true love with a very young male cougar... and I'm sure that I lost here and there some other lovers... Yes, Volle is not the emblem of purity...

But I should say that I found this more funny than other. Actually I believe that, for who has some restraints in reading an anthropomorphic book, Waterways would be more problematic than Volle; in Waterways

there is the romance, and the involving of feelings, in Volle there is only a brief hint, the romance between Volle and his cougar. So for me, I have no problem to read all the sexual adventures of Volle, since there is little romance in them, and so less chance to be emotionally involved. True, I felt a bit for Richy, the male wolf prostitute, and it's true that I cheer for him to be the chosen by Volle, but I also felt that romance was not the main reason of this book.

All in all, taking in account that I'm not a big fan of fantasy, the story flows very well (it's more than 320 pages, but you don't feel them), the setting is pretty detailed and interesting, and the target to make Volle nice to the reader is reached. Again, I would like a bit more of romance (hint to the author...), but I'm a very big romantic, so, of course, it's my opinion.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0971267081/?...>

Adam Gould says

If you are expecting a story with only three erotic scenes with an intricate plot, **don't get this book.**

Volle is a highly sensualistic, gay fox and the majority of the chapters contains erotic scenes or innuendo.

If you are expecting a Bond-esque spy story story, where the character fights bad guys, jumps off building roofs, steals plans and goes home to sleep after drinking a martini - **don't get this book.**

Volle is supposed to be a **long term** spy. This means the majority of this book is Volle making connections, solidifying his position as a noble and knowing the inner workings of the palace. The majority of this book is mostly character development, with little conflicts along the way.

The "main plot", the danger of hostility looming between the two kingdoms doesn't really show until the last few chapters of the book.

However, with the lack of suspense or action that you would find in a spy novel, I enjoyed reading it. I liked Kyell's style and his use of anthropomorphic elements to make the story.

I will definitely buy book #2 just to see where this goes.

Sumire-chan says

I wanted to read the stories in order, even though I'm much more interested in the next book since that's where the romance begins (or so I'm told). Volle is a refreshing character and I enjoyed my time with him. This book did however have a lot of sex in it, and not much plot. That doesn't mean it's bad, just that I was hoping for a little more plotting. But all in all a fun read.

Cameron says

Overall, Volle is a solid novel that reads more like a series of interconnected short stories. The characters are believable and often fun (Helper is a standout, in my opinion). The main plot tends to get lost in the various relationship-themed subplots, but I still found myself drawn in to many of these smaller conflicts. My criticisms mostly revolve around pacing, and some missed opportunities to explore a few elements that might have made the story more exciting.

Volle's plot revolves around the titular main character's dual life as a spy planted into a rival nation's royal court as a lesser noble. Volle is also gay. Though that may sound complicated, this is thoroughly explained in an exposition-heavy first chapter. Moving past that, much of the early conflict centers on Volle finding his place as a new noble. We're introduced to some friends and some enemies, and most of the conflict centers around misconceptions that are quickly resolved. The main plotline doesn't move much until book two, which focuses on a whirlwind romance between Volle and a mysterious soldier. In book 3, we finally get some of the spy intrigue that I had been expecting to permeate the entire novel. However, more focus is spent resolving Volle's other relationships from the first few chapters.

Altivo Overo says

The author does a masterful job of world building and character exposition in most of his books, and this first full length novel is no exception. It is full of characters that we as readers are bound to love, hate, or feel sympathy for. My own personal negative comment is that a lot of the bed hopping is gratuitous and does little to advance either the plot or the character development. However, it is all very well written and makes a fun story to read.

Don't miss the sequels (three so far,) all of which are at least as good. In fact, I'd go so far as to say that *Pendant of Fortune* is even better than this one. Still, read *Volle* first for the background if nothing else. Mandatory reading for fans of anthropomorphics.

Jaime Ladron De Guevara says

How amazing to be this my first formal review, I can write a lot of things about this book, like for example the intriguing story that presents or maybe the clean writing style that Kyell Gold use, but lets try to be more precise, shall we?

Let's begin with the story, if you like the lord of the rings, game of thrones, the chronicles of Narnia or any other story in the middle age, with knights, kings, swords and that sort of things, then this book is for you, you will sure find all those things here plus some romance and other few surprises.

The character development, at first I feel it a little bit rush, but as the story unfolds you understand why it was like that, you can feel how the main protagonist grow with you, you can feel his emotions and that helps you to feel identified with him, and not only that, you can also see how all the characters helps to complement the story, how they are little puzzle pieces to a great story.

So, I recommend this book, not to those faint of heart, but to those who are thirsty for action, adventure,

romance, mystery. So, if you think you can handle that, this is your book my friend, and believe me, when you finish with this story, you would be hook in the magic and mystery world of Volle.

Ery says

3.5 stars

M says

So, er, James Lear writes Wind in the Willows?

Michael says

You know a story is good when you want to know more about the main character beyond the confines of the book. The characters are well developed and the plot moves along at a pretty good clip.

There were points in the book where tense and voice seemed awkward. And while the author used the character's heightened sense of smell quite effectively, he muted other characteristics (instinct, the use of the tail for balance, etc.). While I never forgot that Volle was a fox, I did need to be reminded what some of the other character's species were.

I did like the injection of the religious artifacts, the feel of the time period and the flow of the plot. So much so that I look forward to reading the second book, Pendant of Fortune.
